



H.CON.RES. 361 – COMMEMORATING IRENA SENDLER, A WOMAN WHOSE BRAVERY SAVED THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS DURING THE HOLOCAUST AND REMEMBERING HER LEGACY OF COURAGE, SELFLESSNESS, AND HOPE

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 361 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Janice Schakowsky (D-IL) on May 22, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was not considered.

H.Con.Res. 361 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 29, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 361 resolves that Congress:

- Mourns the loss of Irena Sendler, a woman whose bravery and heroic efforts saved over 2,500 Jewish children during the Holocaust;
- Pays its respect and extends its condolences to the Sendler family;
- Honors her legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope; and
- Remembers the life of Irena Sendler for her heroic efforts to save over 2,500 Jewish children during the Holocaust, and for her unwavering dedication to justice and human rights.

BACKGROUND

Irena Sendler was born in 1910 and grew up in Otwock, Poland. She was in charge of the Children's Division of Zegota, an underground Polish group that assisted Jewish people during World War II. During her time with Zegota, she helped rescue 2,500 Jewish children in Poland.

Arrested by the Germans on October 20, 1943, Irena was placed in Piawiak prison where she was interrogated and sentenced to death. However, the Zegota arranged for her escape and she lived and conducted her work for Zegota in hiding for the remainder of the war.

Because of her courageous work during WWII, she was honored as Righteous Among the Nations in 1965 by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, but she was unable to visit Israel to receive the honor until 1983. In 2003, she was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, which is Poland's highest honor.

Irena Sendler passed away on May 12, 2007, at the age of 98.

STAFF CONTACT

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